



Know
AUSTRALIA!

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Know AUSTRALIA

It's a great place Australia — and it's also a great continent.

No one knows all the answers about it, because its range of life and living, its development, and, above all, its possibilities, are too vast.

But here, in handy form, is a booklet which can tell you many of the things you want to know.

With its help, you'll be able to enlighten anyone's interest in Australia and its people.

There are plenty of figures in the book, because a great story can't be told without big figures. Some of the facts you may already know, but others will surprise you.

Perhaps you think you know. MAKE SURE !

First Edition	..	March, 1944
Second Impression	..	July, 1944
Second Edition	..	January, 1945
Third Edition	..	December, 1945
Fourth Edition	..	August, 1946

Australia and Australians

1. How big is Australia ?

Roughly three million square miles. If you want to be exact, say 2,974,581 s.m., of which 1,149,320 s.m. are in the tropics. You know, of course, the old gag about it being the smallest continent and the largest island in the world.

By the way, the United States is 3,027,000 s.m., Japan is 262,000 s.m. (about 45,000 s.m. less than New South Wales), and Great Britain and Northern Ireland 94,000 s.m.

Inside Australia you could squeeze about 32 United Kingdoms (if you had them) or 24 Norways, or 29 New Zealands, or 3 Mexicos, or 4 Netherlands East Indies (there's a lot of land in our scattered island neighbours).

2. What is the length of Australia's coastline?

Including Tasmania, 12,210 miles — about twice that of the seaboard of the United States. No one has counted the mileage of good bathing beaches but hundreds of first-class surfing resorts attract enormous crowds in the summer months.

3. What is the population ?

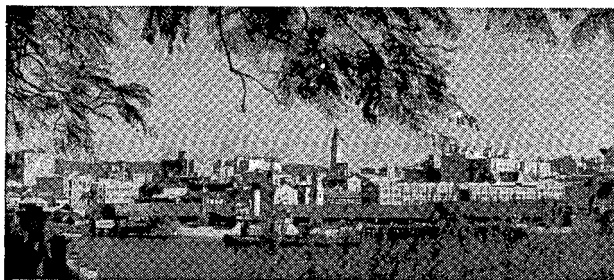
The 1946 estimate was 7,411,759. Of this total 3,717,604 were males and 3,694,155 females.

4. How many farm workers are there ?

Before the war there were 400,000 males but in 1944, the number was only 330,000. There's plenty of room and opportunity for more.

5. How many live in cities and big towns ?

More than 4,600,000 including about 3,647,000 in the six State capital cities. Whatever you may think of this, remember that decentralisation plans include the encouraging prospect of better health facilities, education and transport for country areas, in which slightly more than 2,800,000 people live.



City of Brisbane, Queensland.

6. How many Australians are between 20 and 45 years old ?

The approximate figure is 2,741,000, which is nearly 400,000 more than the number under 20 years.

7. What is the Australian birthrate ?

The present Australian birthrate of 22.3 babies annually for each thousand of the population, indicates a population increase of nearly 165,000 a year. In 1931 the rate was 18.2

to which it had fallen from 25 in 1921, 27.2 in 1901, and 34.5 in 1891.

8. How many marriages are there a year?

Last complete figures for 1944, when the total was 68,201, represented a rate of 9.3 per thousand. The wartime rate of marriage reached 12, an abnormally high rate, but the immediate pre-war years showed a far better rate than the 5.96 of the 1931 depression year.

9. How many deaths each year?

The Australian death rate is one of the lowest in the world. In 1945 it was 9.5 per thousand. Until the war, it had shown a steady decrease, in spite of the increasing average age of the population. It's a healthy country, and medical services are improving all the time.

10. Are aborigines dying out?

As in all newly-settled countries, the natives suffered at first from their contact with the white race. It has been estimated that at the time of the first settlement in 1788 there were about 300,000 black-fellows in Australia. Many were badly treated in the early years, but it is believed that there are still 48,000 full-blooded



aborigines in the country, most of them live in supervised camps. In other parts of the Commonwealth they are also strictly protected. They cannot be given liquor and are encouraged to live an active communal life. Many of the young men enlisted in the armed forces.

11. How many Australians to square mile ?

The density is only 2.5 people to the square mile, but don't forget that a great proportion of the continent is too arid to support anyone, and some of the rest gets too little rain for close settlement.

12. How does this compare ?

Before Hitler began the mass murder of millions, the density in Europe was 121 to the square mile. In Belgium, however, there were 698.8, in the Netherlands 671.3 and in the United Kingdom 506.4. In Asia, even with some crowded areas, the density was 73. Japan's density was pretty high at 389.4, but on its arable land, only 16 per cent. of its area, it was 2,774 persons to the square mile — the highest in the world. The country with the greatest density in the world is Java, with 737 to the square mile. In Canada the density is 3.08 and in the United States 43.

13. Population, States, Territories, Capitals ?

Latest figures show : New South Wales, 2,912,791 (Sydney 1,398,000); Victoria, 2,020,449 (Melbourne 1,170,000); Queensland, 1,085,681 (Brisbane 370,500); South Australia 631,596, (Adelaide 362,500); Western Australia, 491,579 (Perth 263,000); Tasmania, 249,499 (Hobart 70,800); Northern Territory 5239; Australian Capital Territory (Canberra) 14,925.

Australia—A Place To Live In

14. How many people could live in Australia ?

Scientists have made different estimates, but the figure generally accepted is 20,000,000. Much of the central area at present is too deficient in natural water to support a large population, and lies mostly between the summer and winter rainfall areas. Irrigation and water conservation projects in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia, have done much and will do more to bring prosperity and close settlement to what would otherwise be ordinary sheep country very sparsely populated. There is in the Commonwealth, however, about 600,000 square miles of "temperate" country, which is about one-third of the temperate area of the United States. After allowing for mountainous and inaccessible land it is considered that on the remainder some 20,000,000 could live with comfort.

15. Can white people live in tropical Australia ?

Yes, thousands have done so for many years, especially on the East Queensland coast. Settlers in the inland tropical areas have reared large and healthy families over several generations.

16. How does the Australian climate compare with climates of other countries ?

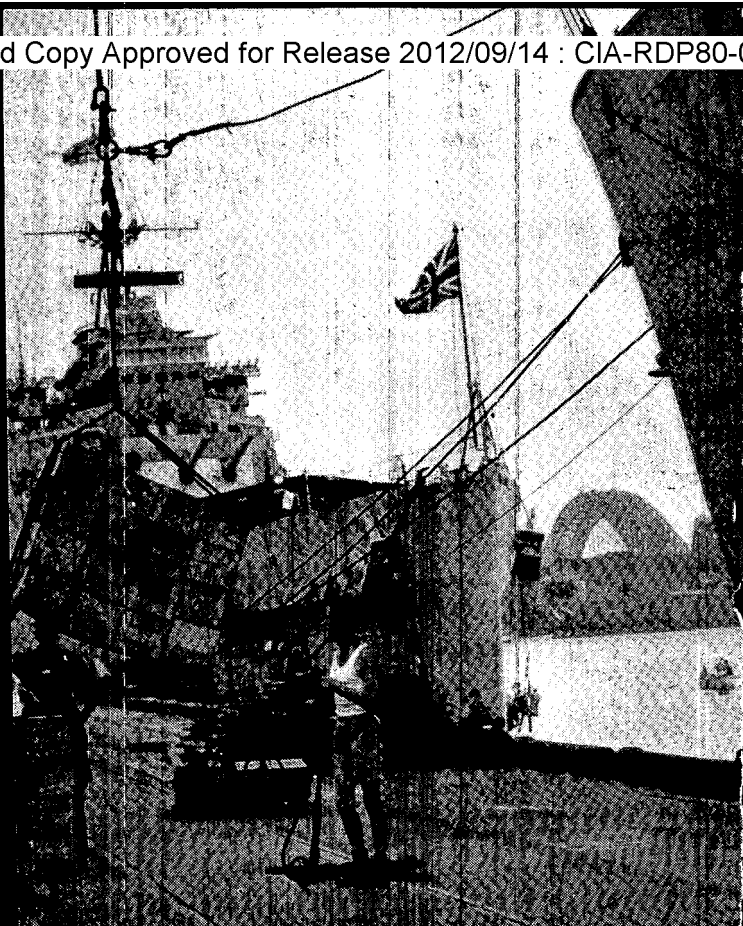
In a country the size of Australia it is possible to experience every kind of climate. The west coast of Tasmania has been compared to the west coast of Ireland, with its rain and moist mists. Much of the southern part of Australia has been compared to the Mediterranean basin with its warm summer and long hours of sunshine. But in the Australian Alps snow sports can be enjoyed for several winter months.

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Inland there is a large area of desert country resembling the Sahara, surrounded by a semi-fertile belt with low rainfall, not suitable for close settlement. The wheat plains and sheep country of the south-east river basin have been compared to the Caspian steppes of Russia, the tropical north of Australia with the monsoon area of central India, and the heavy rainfall area of the north Queensland coast with the Madras coast of India.

17. What about water and transport in the outback ?

In many low rainfall areas the water supply is augmented by artesian bores, which bring water from far below ground level. Plans are being examined for extensive inland irrigation schemes. Until recently, the transport facilities in many districts have been primitive, but defence roads and aerodromes which have been built since the outbreak of war will enable greatly improved civil transport services to operate after the war. That old standby, the camel, may disappear.

18. What distances between capitals ?

We'll set it out in a table :—

		Air Miles	Rail Miles
Brisbane-Sydney	450 (3 hours)	613
Sydney-Canberra	148 (1 hour)	190
Sydney-Melbourne	440 (3 hours)	590
Canberra-Melbourne	292 (2 hours)	518
Melbourne-Adelaide	404 (3 hours)	483
Melbourne-Hobart	383 (2 hours)	..
Adelaide-Perth	1,408 (11 hours)	1,617

The distance by air from Adelaide to Darwin is 1,700 miles (13 hours).

(Flying times are for pre-war services.)

LEFT : Loading food for Britain

19. What is the mileage of Australian railways ?

Railways total 27,918 miles (including 7,339 miles of standard 4 ft. 8½ ins. gauge ; 6,127 miles of 5 ft. 3 ins., and 14,200 miles of 3 ft. 6 ins). Unification of the gauges is now being considered by States and Commonwealth.

20. Mileage of air routes ?

Before the war, just under 29,000. This figure will be increased immensely by current projects.

21. How many miles of roads in Australia ?

There are about half a million miles of roads in the Commonwealth, including valuable strategic highways built during the war.

22. Which is the longest river ?

The Murray — 1,520 miles long. (The Nile is 3,600 miles, and the Mississippi 3,160.) The Murray and its tributaries drain an area of 414,253 square miles — which is more than the whole of France and Spain together.

23. What about sunshine ?

It's true and pleasant to say that Australia is the continent of sunshine. Every part, even the cooler areas in the south, enjoys long hours of sunshine. Official statistics give the rainfall and number of rainy days, but meteorological records show that on most days of the year, even those officially recorded as rainy, the sun shines for some hours. No capital city gets less than an average of about six hours a day for the whole year. Perth, the sunniest capital, has an average of nearly eight hours' sun daily, and many parts of the continent get even more.

24. What about snow ?

There are three main mountain ranges in Australia on which snow regularly falls — the Australian Alps in New South Wales, the Alps in Victoria, and Mt. Wellington in Tasmania. Before the war ski-ing tourists came from all States and abroad.

25. What is the highest mountain ?

Mt. Kosciusko, in the New South Wales portion of the Australian Alps. Cloaked with snow for about seven months



each year, it rises to 7,328 feet, which is not lofty by world standards. In New Zealand, Mt. Cook reaches 12,349 feet, and in the East Indies the volcanic peak of Rinjani, on Lombok, near Bali, is 12,221 feet high. There have been reports of peaks reaching nearly 20,000 feet in Dutch New Guinea, but the highest authenticated peak is Mt. Charles Louis, 16,730 feet.

26. Rainfall ?

In spite of the sunshine the temperate regions have a good but not excessive rainfall. Sydney with an annual average of 46.6 inches, is the wettest capital, followed by Brisbane, 44.7 inches; Perth, 34.7; Melbourne, 25.6; Hobart, 24; Canberra, 22.6; and Adelaide, 21.2.

Good Living Standards

27. How are wages fixed ?

Wages (including margins for skill), overtime rates and hours of work in practically all industries are fixed either by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court or by State tribunals. It is the duty of Federal and State Courts to consider the causes of possible or existing industrial disputes, and endeavour (usually with success) to adjust them.

28. What is the basic wage ?

It is a wage for unskilled labour fixed by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court at the highest amount that industry can afford to pay, having regard to current economic conditions. It is supplemented in most cases by "loadings," e.g. "prosperity," "industry," etc. to make up the "minimum wage" for the industry. Additional margins are paid for skill. Contrary to general belief the Commonwealth basic wage is not devised for any definite family unit, although the court has regard to the adequacy of the wage in relation to the Australian standard of living.

The Arbitration Court varies the amount of the basic wage from time to time on application by employers or employees and after fully considering their representations. In between such determinations it provides that the purchasing power of the last wage fixed by the court shall be kept constant. This is done by providing in awards that wage rates shall rise or fall in accordance with variations in a retail price index number relating to the principal items in the cost of living.

The wage is supplemented by child endowment of 7s. 6d. a week, paid by the Commonwealth Government (from the proceeds of a pay roll tax) for every child under 16 years after the first in every family, irrespective of income limit.

The female basic wage was originally calculated at 54 per cent. of the male rate. As a result of special wartime adjustments, however, women replacing men in war industry have been receiving rates ranging from 60 per cent. to 100 per cent. of the male rate according to proficiency.

The basic wage for adult men in June, 1937, was £3 10s. a week, averaged over the six capitals. Since then it has risen to £4 18s. weekly payable from August, 1946.

As the object of Government policy is to stabilise the cost of living the wage may be expected to remain around this level, subject to possible variations of a shilling or two.

29. What are the standard hours of work ?

Before the war most industries had a 44-hour week. Several had a 40-hour week, and there was some agitation for a 36-hour week. Wartime hours were necessarily longer (and smoking intervals were brief).

30. How many trade unions and unionists are there ?

The number of separate trades unions is 370, with 2,144 branches. Latest available figure of their registered membership in 1944 was 1,218,778, or more than one in six of the total population.

31. How many homes (including flats) are there in the Commonwealth ?

Approximately 1,800,000 according to the most recent estimates. Plenty of people suffering from the shortage of houses would like to know where they all are !

32. How many more homes are required ?

At least 250,000 new homes are required, and there are a further 100,000 homes in such condition as to need replacement. Since construction began early in 1945, Australia's biggest house-building programme has been steadily developing, with an ultimate target of 50,000 new dwellings a year.

33. What does it cost to rent a home ?

Rentals actually paid for the average brick house of four rooms and kitchen are officially recorded to be around 25s. weekly. For wooden homes of the same size the figure is 21s. At present, however, there is a shortage of houses, and it is mostly those with higher rentals which become vacant. Rentals for these (when they can be found) range in middle class suburbs generally from 30s. to 40s. per week. At present rentals are pegged by official regulation.

34. Is the cost of living high ?

No, because the standard basic wage is adjusted periodically as the cost of living varies. Most basic foods are good, plentiful and reasonable in price, except in remote areas where transport is difficult.

35. What is the standard of living ?

The living standard is one of the highest in the world. More than half the dwellings in Australia are occupied by owners or persons buying them by instalments. Before the outbreak of war there were more than 560,000 motor cars in Australia, or about 80 for every 1,000 of the population.

36. What is the average income ?

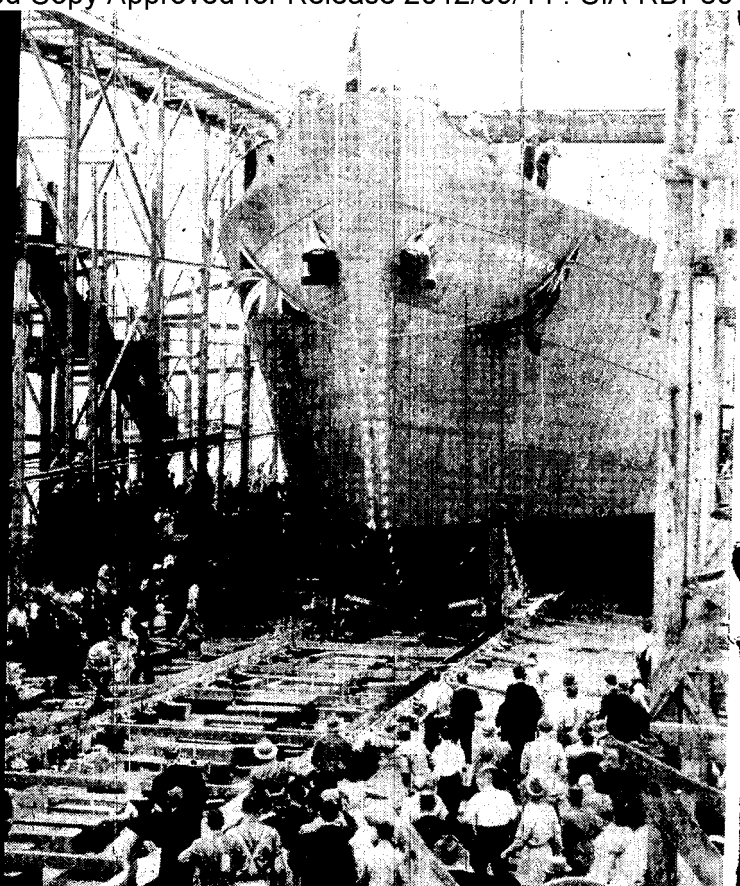
Figures of average incomes must include youthful wage-earners, and also the incomes, often small, of persons who have other means of support. They include also, of course, the totals from the comparatively few in the extremely high income group.

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The average income in Australia in 1938-39 was £259 a year, but in 1943 it had risen to £327. Later figures are not available. The Australian pound will buy considerably more in Australia than its dollar exchange equivalent will buy in the United States.

Here are some typical incomes, using Sydney rates as example, of full-time employees before the war, and at the end of 1944 :—

	June, 1939.	December, 1944.
Fitters and turners	£291 a year	£351 a year.
Cabinetmakers (furniture) ..	£5/8/- a week	£6/13/- a week.
Female typists	£3/-/- to £3/10/-.. a week.	£4/-/- a week.
Engineering apprentice (5th.. year).	£188 a year	£243 a year.
Shearer (per 100-flock)	36/- per 100	41/3 per 100.
Patternmaking (engineering) ..	£6 a week	£7/3/- a week.
Tinsmith (sheet metal)	£5/2/6 a week	£6/3/- to £6/15/- a week.
Baker, single hand (bread) ..	£6/5/- a week	£7/4/- a week.
Bootmaker	£5/5/- a week	£6/7/6 a week.
Stonemason (building)	£6/9/6 a week	£7/7/6 a week.
Splitting machinist (tanning) ..	£4/17/- a week	£6/8/- to £6/10/- a week.
Carpenter	£6/2/- a week	£7/3/6 a week.
Cutter (tailoring, order)	£8/0/6 a week	£8/18/6 a week.
Bodymaker (motor)	£5/9/- to £5/12/-.. a week.	£6/11/- to £6/15/- a week.
Electrical mechanic	£5/12/- a week	£6/15/- a week.
Process Engraver	£5/14/- a week	£6/17/6 a week.
Dairy shed hands	(No award)	£4/18/- a week.
Tractor Drivers	(No award)	£5/18/- a week.
Harvest workers	(No award)	£5/16/8 a week. (56 hours).
Male fruit pickers	£3/15/- to £3/18/- a week.	£4/13/- to £4/17/- a week.

These figures do not include overtime, which is paid for at penalty rates.

Professional fees are similar to those in other parts of the world, and competent professional men and women earn large incomes.

37. Is education compulsory ?

Yes, from the age of 6 years, until the age of 14 or 15 years, varying according to States. Free education is provided in State primary, secondary and technical schools, and in addition there are hundreds of private schools of high standard. Scholarships are obtainable to Universities and there is now a system of subsidies for University and technical students, whose parents might otherwise be unable to give them University training.



38. What is the standard of Australian culture ?

Any reply to this could start an argument, but it is permissible to generalise. Australia is a young country, which in many ways has been isolated from the main current of world thought, but there have always been standard bearers in the arts and sciences.

Australian literature has developed unevenly in the past 50 years, but there have been and are many writers of distinction. Among the hundreds of writers of verse have been Henry Kendall, Henry Lawson, Shaw Neilson, Bernard O'Dowd and Fumley Maurice, all of them widely read beyond the Commonwealth. Walter Murdoch is world-famous as an essayist, and novelists

and short-story writers include Henry Lawson, Joseph Furphy, Henry Handel Richardson and Katherine Susannah Prichard. Percy Grainger is among the musical composers who have achieved international fame, and orchestras and choirs are good, popular and numerous throughout the Commonwealth.

Singers have included Dame Nellie Melba, Florence Austral, Marjorie Lawrence, Peter Dawson and John Brownlee, and there have been many other vocal and instrumental musicians of high calibre. Appreciation of music and drama in Australia is being stimulated by good broadcast programmes.

Each main University has its Conservatorium of Music, where high teaching standards are adhered to, and repertory societies and other theatrical cultural groups are numerous throughout the country.

Australian paintings are favourably known in England and America, and Australia can justly claim a host of able and distinguished painters. Although a truly Australian school of painting has not yet been produced, the work of such artists as Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, George Lambert, Hans Heysen, Elioth Gruner and Margaret Preston has laid the foundations for such a school. They are the pioneers and discoverers of new forms and subtleties found in our landscapes and something which to us means Australia. An Australian artist who is building an international reputation for portraiture is William Dobell.

Australia is perhaps more widely known for her black and white art than for her paintings. Will Dyson, Sir Lionel Lindsay and Norman Lindsay have world reputations and their work hangs in many European galleries.

Every State capital has its national art gallery and also a State art school. These have also been extended to many country towns, giving every facility to art students for the study of art in its manifold forms.

Through the munificent Felton Bequest, the National Gallery of Victoria (now one of the richest-endowed galleries in the world) has laid the foundations of a great collection.

The Australian public has long recognised the merits and value of its own painters and with its generous encouragement and support will do much to foster a truly great Australian school of painters and sculptors.

39. What are repatriation and rehabilitation plans ?

Professional, technical or rural training and in certain cases financial assistance will be available for members of the services after discharge. Disabled members receive pensions of up to £4 16s. a week, plus allowances for a wife and children. The general pension rates are from £2 10s. to £3 8s. a week, and the basic rate for widows is £2 10s. a week. There is a wide range of other benefits, recently liberalised by Parliament, but these are too numerous to treat in a brief summary.

39a. What other pensions and social services are available to Australians ?

Old age and invalid pensions are now paid up to a maximum of £3 5s. each fortnight. Invalid pensioners' wives may draw up to £1 10s. fortnightly, plus an allowance of 10s. for children under 16. Up to £10 is available for the funeral costs of old age and invalid pensioners.

Widows maintaining one or more children under 16 years receive £3 15s. fortnightly. Widows not maintaining children and who are not less than 50, are eligible to receive £2 14s. fortnightly. Widows not maintaining children and who are under 50 are, when in need, eligible for £3 5s. a fortnight.

A maternity allowance of £1 5s. a week is payable for the four weeks before and for the four weeks after birth. If twins are born the allowance is increased to £1 17s. 6d. a week, and, if triplets, to £2 10s. a week. In addition, a bonus is granted

where there are no other children in the family, increasing to a maximum of £7 10s. where there are three or more other children.

Child endowment of 7s. 6d. a week is paid for all children after the first, whatever the income of the parents.

Under recent legislation, put into effect from January 1, 1945, wage-earners affected by temporary sickness or unemployment receive cash benefits of £1 5s. a week for a single adult, £2 5s. for a married man, and 5s. for one dependent child. Under the National Welfare Act, health and medical benefits of this scheme are financed from the National Welfare Fund, appropriated annually from Commonwealth revenue raised by taxation.

40. What is the hospital system in Australia ?

Public hospitals throughout Australia operate under a system whereby a nominal fee is charged in public wards to patients able to pay. Apart from Government subsidies, public hospitals derive income from charities. Under proposals recently adopted, the Commonwealth will pay to the States 6s. a day for all patients occupying beds in public hospitals, thus giving every person a right to free hospitalisation in a public ward. Six shillings a day will also be paid in respect of every patient in intermediate and private wards of public hospitals as a contribution towards their hospital charges. This will cost the Commonwealth about £4,500,000 a year. There are about 570 public hospitals in the Commonwealth.



Nature and the Earth are Bountiful

41. What about primary production ?

In spite of its small population, Australia is one of the leading agricultural countries of the world, and its products contribute a great deal to the food supplies of many overseas countries.

For many years after the first settlements, all activities were concentrated on primary production, and apart from the excitement of the gold period there was little attempt to establish secondary industries until well into the present century.



Cutting sugarcane.

The range of the Australian pastoral and agricultural industry is immense. There are few primary industries not represented in the Commonwealth in greater or less degree, and in several of them Australia is among the world's greatest producers.

Wool production easily surpasses that of any other country, and the vast numbers of sheep allowed the Commonwealth to do its share of feeding and clothing the Allied services and the gallant people of Britain. Australian wool is now helping clothe the war-impooverished peoples of Europe and Asia.

Cattle provide the beef and dairy products and leather which are all outstanding products of Australia. Other livestock raised in vast numbers include pigs, horses and poultry.

Australia is one of the principal wheat-exporting countries of the world. Other coarse grain crops are also harvested.

Fruit of all varieties is grown in every State, and the production of vegetables is being accelerated.

42. How about some figures ?

How many sheep?

About 105,000,000.

What is the average wool clip?

It exceeds 1,000,000,000 lb. This is an average per fleece shorn of about 9 lb.

What is the value of the clip?

The total appraised value exceeds £65,000,000. (No wonder graziers are concerned at the development of substitute fibres).

How many cattle are there in Australia?

There are about 14,000,000, including nearly 3,500,000 dairy cows.

What is the butter production?

It ranges from 140,000 to 212,000 tons a year.

And cheese?

More than 35,000 tons.

How many horses?

About 1,360,000 (but few are Melbourne Cup winners).

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What is the beef production?

The last available figure showed 1,122,000,000 lb. a year, but the quantity was increased to supply the services and Britain.

How much mutton and lamb?

Latest known figure is 961,000,000 lb. a year.

And how much pigmeat?

About 204,000,000 lb. a year.

43. How large are cattle and sheep stations ?

Some cattle leaseholds cover thousands of square miles in the Northern Territory, but even here the tendency to break up big estates is evident. The world's largest merino stud, in New South Wales, covers 520,000 acres and grazes a maximum of 120,000 sheep.

44. What is the wheat production ?

The average used to be 156,000,000 bushels a year from 12,700,000 acres. The 1946 forecast, 144,280,000 bushels from 11,518,000 acres.

45. What area is served by irrigation projects ?

At present more than 800,000 acres, but this will be trebled by new projects.

46. Which is the largest reservoir ?

The Hume dam, on the Murray near Albury (border town between New South Wales and Victoria). It now holds 1,200,000 acre feet, and is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. Already almost two and a half times the size of Sydney Harbour, which has an area of 22 square miles, it may soon be enlarged to hold 2,000,000 acre feet.

Industries are Well Established

Now for Industrial Production (without sounding too much like a Year Book).

47. How many factories are there in Australia ?

The latest available figure of 27,674 does not indicate adequately the size and scope of the expanding manufactures of the Commonwealth.

Secondary industry received tremendous impetus during the 1914-18 war, and expanded steadily until at the outbreak of the recent war many thousands of factories were available for conversion to war production.

In 1939 the steel output of Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. made it one of the largest plants in the Empire. Many other undertakings were also equipped for mass production. Since that time expansion has been remarkable. It was found possible to produce different types of aircraft and aircraft engines in mass quantities (no aircraft engines were made before the war), and to make, in private and Government factories and annexes, an astounding variety of the needs of the Commonwealth and its Allies.



48. Well, how many factory workers are there ?

The total of 766,500 factory employees in 1943-44 gives a better picture of the vast manufacturing programme, mostly for war production. Before the war there were 565,106 factory workers (412,591 men and 152,515 women).

49. What is the value of the output of manufacturing industries ?

In 1938-39 it was £500,419,000. Five years later it had risen to £891,739,000.

Let's take overseas trade from two other angles :

50. What was the value of the pre-war overseas trade ?

The average yearly value of exports for the five years before the outbreak of war was £149,000,000; and imports were valued at about £102,000,000.

50a. What are Australia's trade balances with principal countries ?

Foreign trade balances were dislocated by war, so to-day's figures would be misleading. But the 1938-39 figures (with amounts in £'s sterling) tell the story.

Australia's sales to the United Kingdom exceeded her purchases by £12,800,000, but this surplus was needed to help meet the £18,500,000 annual interest charge on our London debt. We also sent gold and bullion worth £1,600,000 to the United Kingdom.

From the United States, Australia's purchases exceeded her sales by £11,700,000, necessitating heavy exports of gold and bullion to give us an ultimate credit of £1,000,000.

From Canada we bought £6,100,000 worth more than we sold, chiefly automobiles.

We spent £5,000,000 more with Far Eastern countries than they spent with us. But this debit balance with the East was more pronounced because of our big purchases of petroleum from the Netherlands East Indies, and because of heavy reduction in purchases of wool by Japan. In 1934-35 and 1935-36, we sold more to the East than we bought.

50b. What are the main items of import and export in trade with these countries ?

To the United Kingdom we sold food (mostly butter and meats) and wool. To Canada some dried fruits, sugar and wool. To the U.S.A., gold, wool and hides.

From the United Kingdom we bought mainly metals and textiles, with some machinery, paper and drugs. From Canada we got metals and machinery (mainly automobiles), paper and timber. From the U.S.A., machinery, tobacco, oils and drugs, with some surgical and optical instruments, and paper. From the Far East we bought petroleum and oils, together with tea, silk, cotton and linen goods, and sacks and hessians.

51. What was the pre-war production of minerals ?

It took a good deal of digging to produce these 1938 totals : Gold, 1,592,034 fine oz. ; coal, 11,680,159 tons ; copper, 20,326 tons ; pig-iron, 929,676 tons ; lead, 239,590 tons ; silver, 13,895,541 oz. ; tin, 3,311 tons ; zinc, 163,381 tons. Wartime figures cannot be published, but while gold-mining was temporarily restricted, coal production has reached new records and everyone was using a lot of lead.

52. What is the total value of the output of minerals ?

In 1938 it was £32,462,995, the most valuable being — ? Right ! Gold was worth £14,026,615 (which brought its total

production in Australia since the first discovery to just under £700,000,000). Black coal was next, with £7,188,000 for the year. In 1943 the total mineral production was worth £33,741,000.

Gold mining is now being resumed on the famous Australian fields and on those recently developed in New Guinea.

53. Has oil been discovered in Australia ?

Only in small quantities, but the search is going on. No gushers have been found, but oil is being produced in some districts from shale. Traces of oil have been found in British and Dutch New Guinea, but no payable oilfields are yet operating. Exploration will be easier as a result of the opening-up of new areas.

54. What are the most spectacular engineering achievements in Australia ?

The Sydney Harbour Bridge, which was opened for traffic in 1932, is the largest arch bridge in the world. Its total length, with rail and road approaches, is 2½ miles. The main bridge consists of a steel arch span of 1,650 feet. The highest point is 440 feet above sea-level, and the clearance for shipping under the deck of the bridge is 170 feet at high water. The deck is 160 feet wide and it carries a roadway, railway and tram tracks, and footways.

The weight of steelwork in the bridge is 50,300 tons, including 37,000 tons in the main span. The capital cost was approximately £9,500,000, and the bridge took more than eight years to build.

On March 24, 1945, Sydney's new graving dock, the "Captain Cook Dock," was opened by the Governor-General, the Duke of Gloucester. An 80,000 ton liner could be floated into the dock for complete overhaul. More than 30 acres had to be reclaimed from Sydney Harbour before the actual work on the dock could commence, and 700,000 tons of concrete were used in construction. The construction of this dock, the largest single engineering achievement in Australia's history, took about four years and employed 3,500 workmen. Total cost was about £9,000,000.

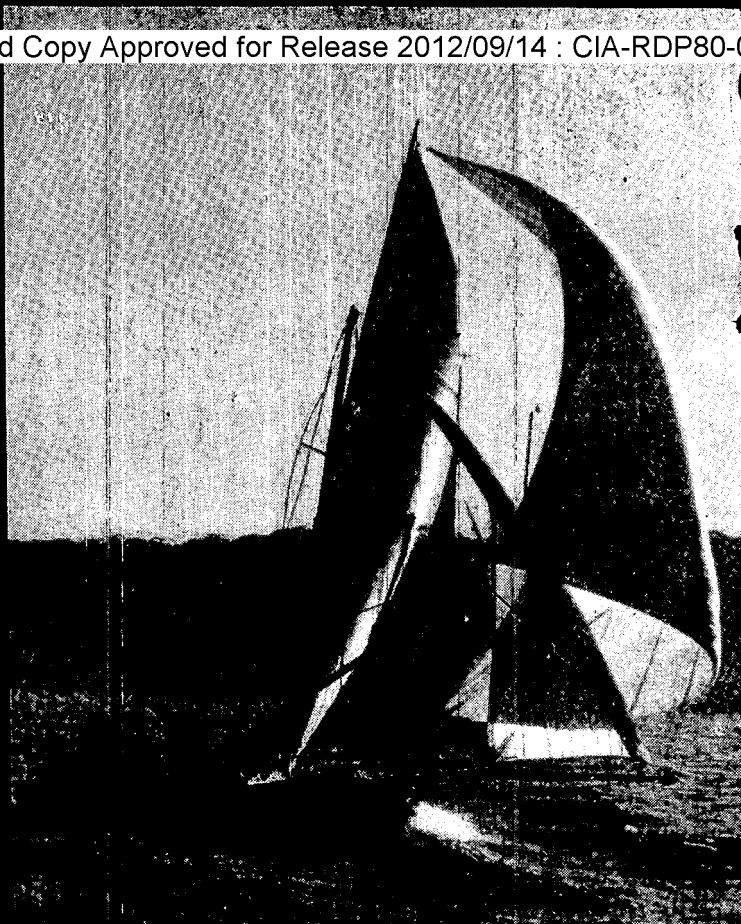
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RIGHT: Sydney Harbour Bridge from the city.

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Plenty of Sport for Leisure Hours

55. What are the most popular outdoor sports ?

Attendances at horse and dog races (meetings during the war were held on Saturdays only) total about 4,000,000 a year. During the winter, football (Australian rules, two Rugby codes and Soccer) in the capitals attracts crowds of up to 100,000, and the total attendances are well over 2,000,000 in a season. Cricket has fewer paying spectators (except at Test matches), but at least as many players. Tennis and golf have scores of thousands of players, and hockey, baseball, yachting, lacrosse, bowls, shooting and horse-riding are all immensely popular. Sea and river fishing has many devotees.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children swim and surf off the marvellous ocean and bay beaches around the coast in summer-time. Many of the world-famous beaches are better and more colourful than any to be found in other countries. It was on Australian beaches that life-saving patrols originated, and these groups of athletic young men and women of magnificent physique ensure the safety of bathers. Swimming is also a popular pastime inland in rivers and freshwater baths.

56. What are the theatre attendances ?

Attendances at live artist theatres exceed 4,000,000 each year, and at the movies reach the staggering total (for a population of 7,000,000) of 146,000,000 every year (which is good for the amusement tax).

Dancing and skating attract 12,000,000 patrons a year, and boxing and wrestling and circus performances are always well attended.

**57. Is there any
big-game fishing?**

Before the war this was becoming one of the greatest attractions for tourists from overseas. The famous author, the late Zane Grey, found the tuna and sharks off the east coast of New South Wales provided unequalled sport, which was easily accessible, and his enthusiasm was endorsed by hundreds of Australians and overseas visitors.



**58. How does Australian wine compare with
wine from overseas?**

Most matured varieties of Australian wine are considered by experts to be extremely good. The alcoholic content of some of the fortified wines is high, but there are many light and attractive table wines of low alcoholic content.

59. What is the beer like?

Australians are great drinkers of their rather heavy beers, which have a somewhat higher alcoholic content than those of Britain and the United States. There are good breweries in all States, and inter-State rivalry is keen on their respective merits.

**60. How many broadcast listeners' licences
are held in Australia?**

At the last count, 1,483,000. Australia, with 20 licences for each hundred of population, is one of the most radio-conscious

countries in the world. The licence fee is £1 a year, or less than a penny a day.

61. How is broadcasting conducted ?

Careful control since inauguration of broadcasting has provided a unique service for Australia. A Commonwealth-wide network of national (or A class) stations gives a service from the Australian Broadcasting Commission on behalf of the Government. This contains no advertising, and in capital cities gives alternative programmes for different groups of listeners. There are also in the Commonwealth more than 100 commercial (or B class) stations, which pay a licence fee of £25 per annum, and derive their revenue from the advertisements which are broadcast during programmes. There is a strict official check on wave bands and interference. The general standard of programmes is extremely high.

62. How many telephones are installed ?

It is possible to ring 830,000 numbers which are connected to 580,000 lines, but it would take a long time. About 715,000,000 calls are made each year — and they earn about £12,000,000 in pence.

The cost of trunk calls varies according to the time of day (to discourage social calls in the busy business hours). Three minutes of a 100-mile conversation costs 1s. 1d. between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m., 1s. 6d. between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. or 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., and 1s. 11d. between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. For 500 miles the corresponding charges are 3s. 1d., 4s. 6d., and 5s. 11d. For a really long-distance call, the 2,070-odd miles by Radial distance from Sydney to Perth, the 3-minute costs are 6s. 3d., 9s. 5d., and 12s. 6d.

From Australia it's possible to ring up almost any country. Three minutes from Sydney to London before the war used to cost a caller only £4 10s.

63. What are the animals and birds ?

There are about 400 kinds of animals and 700 kinds of birds in Australia. Apart from the kangaroo family the more unusual animals are the koala (or "Teddy Bear"), the dingo (or wild dog), the wombat, the platypus, possums, bats, and the dugong (a sea mammal). The birds include the emu, the lyre bird, the bell bird, the kookaburra, the rosella, and varieties of eagles, parrots and cockatoos. Fish teem in rivers and the sea.



64. Trees and plants ?

There is a bewildering variety of trees, ferns and plants, especially in the tropical areas. The eucalyptus (the "gum" tree) is found throughout the continent. In the South some grow more than 300 feet high.



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Some History — Past and Present

65. When was Australia first discovered ?

A Dutch map published in 1597, nearly 350 years ago, indicated roughly the eastern and western coast of Australia, and the Gulf of Carpentaria. In 1606 the ship "Duyfken" coasted along the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, and in 1616 Dirck Hartog, another Dutchman, explored the continent's west coast. In 1642 Tasman discovered Tasmania and New Zealand. Dampier, an Englishman, visited the north-west in 1688. Captain James Cook explored and took possession of the east coast in 1770.

66. What was the date of the first settlement ?

The "First Fleet" reached Australia in January, 1788, and the Colony was proclaimed in Sydney on February 7 of that year.

67. How long did the convict system last ?

Most, but by no means all, of the early settlers were convicts, some of them hardened criminals, but a large proportion were either political prisoners or offenders whose crimes to-day would be thought trivial. As the number of free settlers increased and the country's possibilities were recognised, the agitation for abolition of the system of transportation increased. It was abolished in New South Wales in 1840, in Tasmania in 1853, and in Western Australia in 1868.

68. When were the States established ?

The six colonies (which became States with the federation of Australia) were established as follows :— New South Wales, 1788 ; Tasmania (then Van Diemen's Land), 1825 ; Western Australia, 1829 ; South Australia, 1836 ; Victoria, 1851 ; Queensland, 1859.

69. What was the date of Federation ?

The Commonwealth Constitution Act was passed by the British Parliament in July, 1900. The proclamation was signed on September 17, 1900. The first Federal Parliament was opened in Melbourne in 1901 by the late King George V, who was then Duke of York.

**70. When did
Parliament move
to Canberra ?**

In May, 1927, when the then Duke of York, now King George VI, opened the first session there. Parliament now meets at regular intervals, members of both Houses coming to Canberra from all parts of Australia.



Federal Parliament House, Canberra.

71. How many members of Parliament are there ?

In the Federal Parliament there are 111 (Senate 36 ; House of Representatives, 75). In the States, a total of 498 (N.S.W., 150 ; Victoria, 99 ; Queensland, 62 ; South Australia, 59 ; Western Australia, 80 ; Tasmania, 48). Altogether there are 609 Federal and State members. There's a move to increase the number of Federal members because of the increasing Commonwealth powers and responsibilities.

**72. How many Prime Ministers of the
Commonwealth have there been ?**

Sixteen. Sir Edmund Barton (1901-03); Messrs. A. Deakin (1903-04, 1905-08, 1909-10); J. C. Watson (1904); Sir George Reid (1904-05); Mr. A. Fisher (1908-09, 1910-13, 1914-15); Sir Joseph Cook (1913-14); Messrs. W. M. Hughes* (1915-23); S. M. Bruce (1923-29); J. Scullin (1929-32); J. A. Lyons (1932-39); Dr. E. Page (1939); Messrs. R. G. Menzies (1939-41); A. Fadden (1941); J. Curtin (1941-45); F. M. Forde (1945); J. B. Chifley (1945-still in office).

* The only member of the original Federal Parliament (1901) who was still in Parliament in 1946. In 1945 he celebrated his 81st birthday, about the same time as he celebrated his 60th anniversary as a State and Federal Parliamentarian.

73. How much was spent on the war ?

Australia had spent £2,111,000,000 on the war at the end of six years. To that date almost £1,000,000 had been spent for every day of hostilities.

74. What is Australia's status in the Empire ?

Australia is one of the five self-governing Dominions (the others are Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Eire) which are all part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The only constitutional link is the Crown, but there is also the strong and unbreakable link of blood and brotherhood with Britain and with the other parts of the Empire.

75. What are the authority and duties of the Governor - General of Australia ?

His authority is that of all Governors - General, who are the direct representative of the King in the Commonwealth. His duties include the opening of the Commonwealth Parliament and the commissioning of Prime Ministers to form Governments. He presides at meetings of the Commonwealth Executive Council, and undertakes the many public duties associated with the office.

76. Where is Australia represented overseas ?

In many places. She has an expanding oversea organisation and is represented on a Ministerial plane in some countries and by High Commissioners and Trade Commissioners in others. Turn to the last page for details.

77. What is Australia's status in world affairs ?

The Commonwealth of Australia is an independent and democratic nation. It is one of the United Nations, and before the war sent its own representative to the League of Nations. It sends its own Ministers to foreign capitals. Its Executive can declare war. As one of the nations of the world Australia has had a voice in the making of the peace.

78. What does the Commonwealth propose for the future of the Pacific ?

The Commonwealth's Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) has made it clear that Australia realises it will have to play its part in guarding the security and prosperity of the Pacific as its share of the world's peace planning. Its particular interest will be an extended Australian zone, including the islands close to its shores, which have a community of interest in defence, in trade and in transport.

There is no wish to alter the sovereignty of the territories concerned, but the Australian Government contemplates a general understanding on these and related matters with other Governments concerned and has already made a Pact with the New Zealand Government.

79. Will Australia welcome migrants ?

Yes! Australia is the first of the countries of the British Commonwealth to announce a full policy of planned immigration. She has set a target of 70,000 new citizens a year, thinking first of Britain and then of Allied countries. All sections of the Australian community — workers, traders, employers — have pledged support of the Government's policy to make immigrants feel at home in a new land.

80. Will migrants be limited to farm workers ?

No! Employment in Australian factories increased from 544,000 to 766,500 during the war. Secondary industry continues to expand, and new manufacturing plants are being established in city and country centres. There is a keen demand for skilled tradesmen, mechanics and artisans.

81. How can migrants get to Australia ?

The United Kingdom and Australian Governments have agreed to schemes to provide free passages to United Kingdom ex-service personnel and their dependants, and assisted passages at low rates to other British residents of the United Kingdom not eligible under the free passage schemes. These agreements will

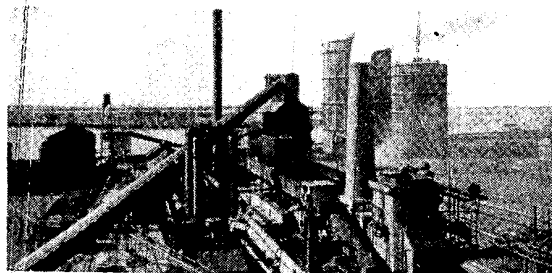
come into operation when shipping and other factors permit. The answer to the question as it affects your individual case will be given fully upon enquiry — by letter if you like — to the Chief Migration Officer, Australia House, the Strand, London, W.C.2.

82. How will newcomers find jobs ?

The facilities of the Commonwealth Employment Service will be available to migrants to guide and assist them in finding suitable employment.

83. Social Service Benefits for migrants ?

Turn back to paragraph 39a. All migrants may become eligible for the Social Service benefits provided for the Australian citizen by complying with the conditions of eligibility presented by the respective Acts, e.g., by residing in the Commonwealth for a specific period. British immigrants arriving in Australia under either the free or assisted passage agreements will be extended substantial social service rights from the day they arrive. These include health and medical services, sickness and unemployment benefits, maternity allowance and child endowment.



Modern Industrial plant.

When did it Happen?

This table gives the dates of some of the outstanding events in Australian history. They are a few of the milestones from the first settlement a little more than a century and a half ago.

- 1788 First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay.
- 1797 Merino sheep introduced.
- 1808 Deposition of Governor Bligh.
- 1851 First discovery of payable gold in Australia.
- 1854 Southern Cross flag flown for first time at Eureka Stockade, Ballarat.
- 1885 Australia's first taste of war—contingent sent to Sudan.
- 1899 Troops sent to Boer War in South Africa.
- 1900 Commonwealth of Australia proclaimed.
- 1914 Australia at war with Germany.
- 1915 Landing at Gallipoli.
- 1918 War ended. Population reached 5,000,000.
- 1919 Ross and Keith Smith made first flight from Britain.
- 1921 Commonwealth received mandate for New Guinea.
- 1926 Population reached 6,000,000.
- 1928 Kingsford Smith and Ulm made first trans-Pacific flight.
- 1932 Sydney Harbour bridge opened.
- 1934 Scott and Black flew from Britain in record of 71 hours.
- 1935 First regular England - Australia air mail.
- 1937 New South Wales sesqui-centenary.
- 1938 Australian militia forces raised to 70,000.
- 1939 War with Germany.
- 1940 First foreign Minister to Commonwealth arrived from U.S.A. Population reached 7,000,000.
- 1941 War with Japan.
- 1944 Australia-New Zealand pact signed at Canberra.
- 1945 Defeat of Germany (May), and of Japan (August). John Curtin, wartime Prime Minister died. Australia announced large-scale immigration plan.
- 1946 Immigration agreements signed with Britain. Australian Minister, Norman Makin, first President of the Security Council of United Nations.

Know Australia

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Information on Australia can be obtained from :—

CHIEF MIGRATION OFFICER IN LONDON, or
DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND INFORMATION BUREAU,
both situated at Australia House, The Strand, LONDON.

Trade Information Officer,
Office of the Australian Government
Trade Commissioner,
Australia House, Strand, LONDON.

Director,
Australian News & Information Bureau,
630 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Trade Information Officer,
Office of the Australian Trade
Commissioner,
630 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Press Attache,
Australian Legation,
3117 Woodland Drive,
WASHINGTON 8 N.W., U.S.A.

Press Attache,
Office of the Australian Consul-General,
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., U.S.A.

Press Attache,
Office of the Australian
High Commissioner,
114 Wellington Street,
OTTAWA, CANADA.

Press Attache, Australian Legation,
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Press Officer,
Office of the Australian
High Commissioner in India,
Communication Building,
Cnr. Queensway and Connaught Place
NEW DELHI, INDIA.

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Office of the Australian Government
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2 Fairlie Place, CALCUTTA, INDIA.

Trade Information Officer,
Office of the Australian Commissioner
in Malaya,
Union Building, Collyer Quay,
SINGAPORE, MALAYA.

Press Attache,
British Commonwealth Member's Staff,
Allied Council for Japan,
TOKYO, JAPAN.

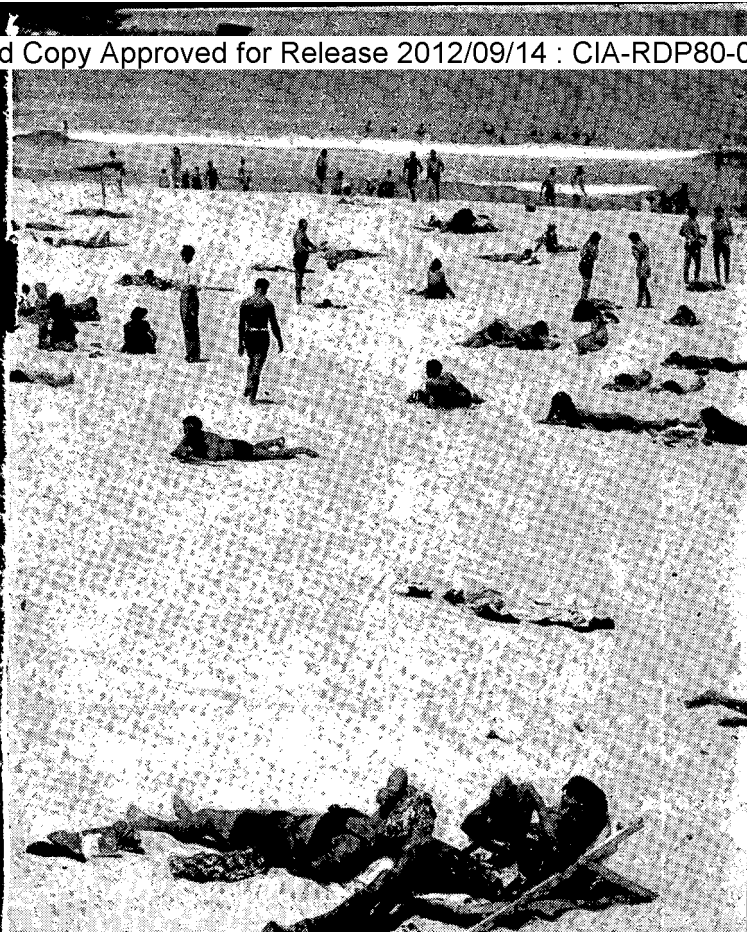
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14 Rue Las Cases, PARIS, 7, FRANCE.

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Office of the Australian Government
Trade Commissioner in Egypt,
41 Sharia Kasr el Nil,
CAIRO, EGYPT.

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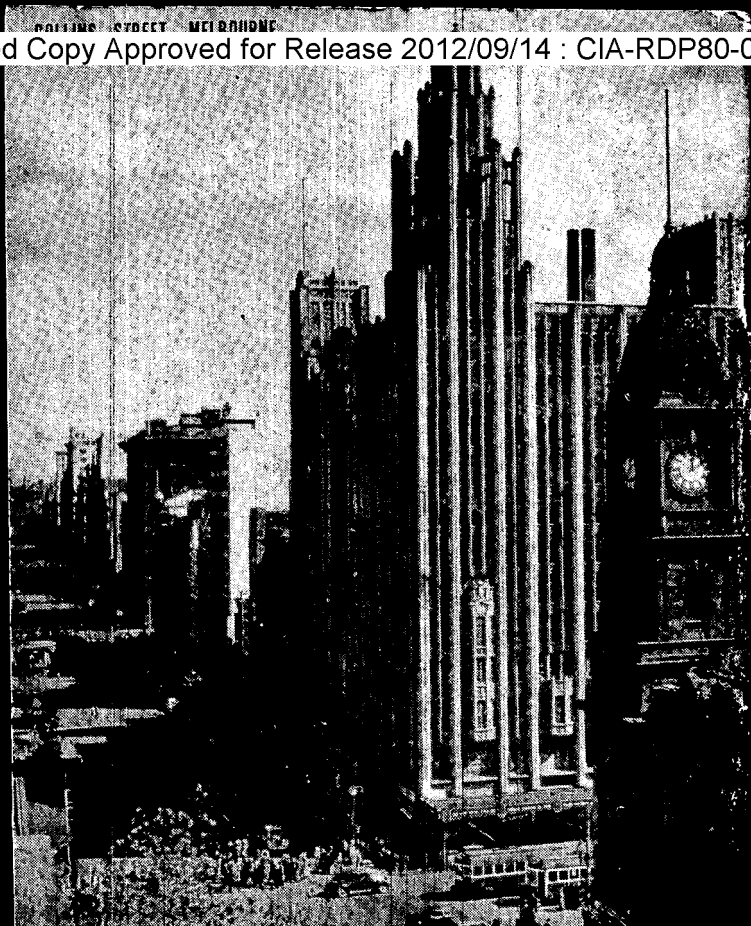
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